

Quid Novi

Vol. XII, No.20

McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITE MCGILL FACULTE DE DROIT

March 30, 1992
le 30 mars, 1992

WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE YOU EVER GET TO COURT

By Jacques Neatby, Nat. IV

Monique, my friend was lying on the ground. Her eyes closed. Peaceful. I sat there, only a dozen feet away, as he approached her. I sat there and watched as he got on top of her and roughly spun her onto her back. I could see her face clearly. Startled, her eyes were now open and wide with fear as she stared up into his face. Still, I sat there, staring quietly as he theatre-goer might. I felt vaguely nauseous. He laughed and stroked her hair clumsily.

«You stupid bitch», he said matter of factly, «you stupid fuckin' bitch. You left the front door open.» Her breath became irregular. His voice grew louder. «You stupid fuckin' slut! Women are so fuckin' stupid. Dontcha know it's so fuckin' stupid to leave your front door

unlocked?!»

He laughed. He held both her wrists above her head with one hand and used the other to grab her under the chin. She quickly drew a breath as if she'd only just remembered to breathe. His face was a few inches from her's.

«You're not goin' to fight me now, are ya!»

«No....I won't.» she answered. She drew another quick breath.

«Cause if you do, I'll kill you». He paused, then laughed again.

He slowly slid down her body, letting go of her hands, but still looked up at her face leeringly. He paused as his hands reached her waist. He stared at her once more for signs of an imminent struggle but saw no fight in her face. She lay there,

frozen. He fumbled to pull her pants down, oblivious to me there, staring, only a dozen feet away.

Suddenly her upper body sprang up, a shriek erupted from her lips. As he looked up in surprise, both her hands stabbed at his eyes. He fell back on his hanches and she came at him, sliding along the floor. She kicked him once, twice, in the face. He fell back again but staggered to his feet this time while she stayed on the ground.

«You fucking bitch!», he screamed, «you fuckin' bitch! I told you I'd kill you!» She was terrified. I was terrified. He lunged at her. She kicked at him with her right foot but he grabbed it with one hand. He swung wildly at her with his free arm. Despite the fear etched on her face, her

Cont'd p.5

LA GRANDE DÉPRIME

By Alain Olivier, BCL II

Fermetures d'usines.....faillites.....mises à pied..... L'hiver aura été bien long pour trop de Canadiens, forcés de se chercher un emploi après plusieurs années dans une «bonne job». Les mauvaises nouvelles se succèdent. Les jours passent, mais nous ne voyons toujours pas le bout du tunnel... Quel mal afflige donc l'économie canadienne?

Il y a plusieurs raisons qui font que l'économie se porte mal. D'abord, en ce

qui a trait aux questions locales, le Canada doit faire face à nombre de problèmes sérieux. Vu que la période d'expansion des années 1980 a dépendu en grande partie des dépenses des ménages, des entreprises et des gouvernements, l'endettement considérable de ces agents économiques à l'heure actuelle tend inévitablement à ralentir tout mouvement de reprise. De plus, à cause du fardeau fiscal qui pèse sur les particuliers, que ce soit au niveau de l'impôt sur le

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ANNOUNCEMENTS - ANNONCES

STIKEMAN ELLIOTT MOOT - On Saturday, March 21st the first annual Stikeman Elliott First Year Moot Competition took place at the offices of Stikeman Elliott in Toronto. For those of you who have not heard of this new moot, it is exclusively for first year students (chosen by lottery from those who expressed an interest), between McGill and University of Toronto, and based on the Laskin moot problem. It will alternate between Montréal and Toronto (since it was the brainchild of Dean Robert Sharpe, this year it took place in Toronto).

Eight McGill mooters went to Toronto: Caroline Champagne, Patricia D'Heureux, Caroline Ferland, Clair Fitzgerald, Theresa Hinz, Jeff Simpson, Madeleine Tran and Chris Wayland. We were extremely pleased to have a clean sweep for McGill with the prize allocations as follows:

Best school overall:	McGill
Best team:	Caroline Champagne Caroline Ferland
Pleading Awards:	
1st place	Caroline Ferland
2nd place	Madeleine Tran

PATRICIA ALLEN MEMORIAL - Most of you will have heard by now of the tragic and untimely death of Patricia Allen of the Class of 1988. Patricia was violently murdered on an Ottawa sidewalk by her husband on the morning of November 13, 1991. On December 17, 1991, members of the Faculty, students and friends and members of Patricia's class held a memorial service in her honour in the Common Room. On that occasion, it was announced that there would shortly be established a memorial in Patricia's name. Several classmates of Patricia, Associate Dean Stevens and representatives of Martlet House have just completed the terms of endowment for the memorial. As representatives of the class and of the Faculty, we are writing to all students in the Faculty now to ask you to consider making a donation to the Patricia Allen Memorial. The Memorial will fund an annual lecture to be called the «Patricia Allen Memorial Lecture». The lecture will be designed to sensitize and educate the legal community and others regarding pressing social and legal issues, particularly that of violence as manifested in the tragic, senseless murder of Patricia Allen. If sufficient funds for a lecture cannot be raised, or if circumstances change such that a lecture is no longer feasible, the funds will be used within the university to commemorate Patricia and to advance the causes just described. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, you should make it payable to «Patricia Allen

Memorial - McGill, and deliver it to the Dean's office or to Martlet House, McGill University, 3605 Mountain Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3G2M1, attention Mary Pat Cormier. You should feel free to contact Associate Dean Stevens if you would like further information.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE - Many thanks to all who purchased the endearing out-of-date books at the Library Coffee House last Thursday. The book sale succeeded in raising \$70.00 which will start the ball rolling in the efforts to gather funds for our new law library. Keep your eyes open for more library events.

LAW COMPUTER LAB - Please note that the undergraduate law computer lab, located in Room 204 of New Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel, will be completely closed on April 27th and 28th. On May 10th, all files kept up on the network survey [drive F] will be erased permanently.

GRADUATION BALL 1992 - The graduation ball is on Saturday, May 2nd, 1992 at the McGill Faculty Club. Cocktails will start at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Les billets sont maintenant disponibles. Veuillez voir: Sophie Arpin; Lori Knowles; Marla Eichenbaum; Jordan Waxman; Jennifer Zerczy. Coût: \$55.00 par personne, payable en argent comptant ou par chèque au nom de l'A.E.D.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW LEGAL CLINIC -

The Québec Environmental Law Centre (Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement), located at Place d'Armes, is anxious to establish a legal clinic relationship with the McGill Faculty of Law. Our faculty permits students who have completed four terms to elect or work in a legal clinic for credit. Professor Colleen Sheppard is the supervising professor for the program, details of which are to be found in the faculty course syllabus. The Québec Environmental Law Centre provides services which include researching and writing briefs on regulations and acts for Parliamentary consideration, writing articles for the Environmental Law Bulletin, and assisting clients with environmental law issues. Participating students would be supervised by one of the experienced lawyers at the clinic and would be involved in all aspects of the clinic services. Working at the centre would be a great way of gaining experience in environmental law issues. Interested students should consult Prof. Sheppard regarding the clinic ap-

proval process, and then contact Yves Corriveau at the Québec Environmental Law Center at 954-3470 or Jennifer Griffith of the Faculty Environmental Law Association at 284-6840.

CLINIQUE D'INFO JURIDIQUE DE MCGILL - We need volunteers to help us give legal information during this summer. Aidez-nous; nous avons besoin de votre temps et énergie! First years welcome! Pour plus d'info: Lucie Poirier 344-4764; Isabelle Choinière 938-5237

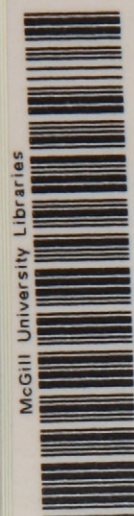
ANGLOPHONE FAMILY NEEDED - An 18 year old french boy from Bordeaux, a South Western regio of France, hoping to improve his English, is searching for an anglophone family who will welcome him for a part of the Summer. The family in question should also have an 18 year old boy for a reciprocal trip to France thi Summer so as to help him improve his French. For further information, please call Gabrielle Moisan at 525-9721.

O.F.W.C./S.P.S.V. (MCGILL CHAPTER) - will present the Honourable John Crosbie, Federal Minister, on Wednesday, April 1, 1992, at 12h00 (noon), in the Moot Court. Mr. Crosbie will speak on the issue of «Overfishing: An International Law Problem - No Fishing Rights for an independent Quebec?»

FORUM NATIONAL - Mr. Justice Iacobucci of the Supreme Court of Canada will speak on Friday, April 3rd at 12:00 in the Moot Court. All are welcome!

MCGILL LAW JOURNAL - For each of the last five years, the Journal has organized the Alumni Lecture, the only event at which former and current Journal members formally get together and catch up on what's going on at the Journal and with each other. This year, at the request of the Journal and the Aboriginal Law Association, Mr. Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, has agreed to deliver the Alumni Lecture. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st at 19:00 in the Moot Court. Students are welcome though seating will be limited.

LEGAL THEORY WORKSHOP - On Friday, April 3rd, at 12:00 in room 202, Prof. Scott Brewer (Harvard) will give a talk on the topic of: «Pragmatism, Language and Law». All are welcome!



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RESULTS FROM L.S.A. ELECTIONS 1992:

Vice-President Civil Law:

<u>Joshua Fireman</u>	116	51%
Suzy Costom	111	49%

Vice-President external:

<u>Cristoph Sicking</u>	198	62%
Beatrice Maillé	121	38%

Athletic Coordinator:

<u>Marie-Josée Legault</u>	138	43%
Jennifer M. Griffith	118	36%
Naranayan (Ryan) Iyer	67	21%

President BCL III:

<u>Corina Stonebanks</u>	39	55%
Graham Garner	32	45%

President BCL II:

<u>Virginie Gauthier</u>	56	75%
Joanne Chriqui	19	25%

President LLB II:

<u>N. Tara Mani</u>	16	35%
Ed Vandenberg	13	28%
Roger Stuart	13	28%
Patrick Martin	4	9%

Student Members of Faculty Council:

<u>Estelle Richmond</u>	131	12%
<u>Hélène Gagnon</u>	126	12%
<u>Edsel Mourillon</u>	115	11%
<u>Tania Chugani</u>	114	10%
Nancy Girard	100	9%
Alexandra Gillespie	96	9%
Benoit Morel	94	9%
Tara Shewchuk	76	7%
Jodi Whyte	75	7%
Ted Schipper	57	5%
Marie-France St.-Amour	55	5%
David Mesman	52	5%

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED BY ACCLAMATION:

President of the L.S.A.:

Nathalie Goldin

Vice-President Administration:

Catherine Maheu

Vice-President Finance:

Ron Levi

Vice-President Common Law:

Alan McConnell

Social Coordinator:

Stacey Silverberg

President LLB III:

Monica Creery

President LLB IV/ BCL IV:

Greg David

Baseball in Montréal: End the Misery

by Nick Katerinakis, BCL II

The Montréal Expos and I share the same birth year. In many ways we have grown up together; they are the brothers mom was never able or willing to provide. It is a mystery how I ever graduated from high school given all the distractions they provided. The cold nights at Jarry Park, the National League East Pennant, the Blue Monday, the Gary Carter trade, and Pete Rose's 4000th hit are all crucial events in my adolescence. However, my siblings are very ill; near death in fact. Rather than watch them suffer, I offer my reasons why failure in Montréal is inevitable and why we should let the Expos go immediately.

1) Montrealers are baseball ignorant: There is not a city in the world that can claim a greater understanding or love of hockey and clumsy figure skaters; they are after all our national pastimes. However, one could find aboriginal tribes in Africa and Australia never having been exposed to Western Civilization that would have a better understanding of baseball than the Montréal fans and media.

2) Montrealers have no money: After paying for parking tickets and San Jose Sharks T-shirts, there is very little disposable income left for the average Montrealer. 5 dollars a hot-dog and 4 million dollars a year for 40 year old Jack Morris might work in that boring burg down the 401, but not in this great metropolis. (After all, you don't have to worry about the NHL playoffs cutting in on your revenues). There are plenty of markets that can afford baseball. When the Americans stop bashing the Japanese the establishment of a worldwide baseball market is only a matter of time. Montréal, whose recessions come first and leave last, will simply not be part of «the show».

3) The weather sucks: There are a lot of teams in the U.S. that have done worst on the field than the Expos over the last two decades, yet they continue to prosper and draw big crowds. This success can be partly attributed to the great weather of Southwest California or the American Mid/South East region. The weather allows these teams the luxury of taking their time to rebuild be-

cause people are at the games to enjoy the outdoors regardless of the success of the team. This is a luxury the Expos just don't have.

4) The stadium sucks: It's the middle of July and it's a beautiful Friday night. You want to go watch baseball. What does it entail? A two hour drive across the metropolitan (3 hours if it is being repaired), an hour of looking for parking in the beautiful east end, and then two hours of sitting in a closed stadium, because the roof is not functioning or there is a 10% chance of rain. What an appealing prospect. How can this toilet we call a stadium ever be compared to Dodger stadium in L.A. or Wrigley Field in Chicago, where people have waited fifty years for their team to win the World Series? I won't even discuss the funeral atmosphere of the place or the prospects of a big chunk of concrete landing on your head.

5) No one wants to play here: Taxes are too high. The lack of a credible baseball media and a large market means that many players live in obscurity and have no opportunity to make additional advertising revenues. They are not accustomed to the climate and they cannot educate their children in their first language. Consequently, they are separated from their families for large portions of each season. Most of the talented players in Major League baseball sign contracts that will not allow them to be traded to Montréal. The Expos trade themselves not to improve the talent of their team but rather to lower their overall team salary. The players who do stay in Montréal are unmotivated and perpetual under-achievers. Montréal exists as a sanctuary for the laid back players desperately hiding from the pressures of New York or L.A., which serve to motivate successful players. This lack of competitiveness means that the Expos are destined for an existence of chronic mediocrity. Did I mention that taxes are too high?

What initially began as an exciting experiment is dying before our eyes. The only way the Expos can survive is to change venues, pack their bags and leave quietly in the night. With them will go a very storied history and a part of all Montrealers. I will miss them greatly. ■

La Grande Déprime ...suite de p.1

revenu ou des taxes basées sur la consommation (tps, tvq,...), ceux-ci ont un revenu disponible moins élevé et tendent donc à réduire leurs dépenses de consommation. Par ailleurs, la banque du Canada se voit obligée de maintenir des taux d'intérêt relativement élevés afin d'attirer les investisseurs étrangers, qui financent par leurs achats d'obligations les déficits des différents niveaux de gouvernement. Ainsi, pour toutes ces raisons, le Canada éprouve beaucoup de difficulté à se sortir de la récession actuelle.

Il y a également plusieurs facteurs qui réduisent la compétitivité des produits canadiens sur les marchés internationaux. D'abord, les coûts unitaires élevés de la main d'œuvre canadienne ne sont pas proportionnels à la qualité des produits finis, du moins pour ce qui est des secteurs manufacturiers traditionnels (vêtement, chaussure, textile etc.). Il ne faut pas croire, toutefois, que le gouvernement fédéral puisse corriger ce problème structurel en maintenant le dollar canadien à un niveau artificiellement bas.... Ce n'est là qu'un moyen temporaire d'augmenter l'attrait de nos produits à l'étranger, moyen qui risque d'ailleurs d'avoir des effets négatifs à long terme (vu que plusieurs secteurs de l'économie dépendent fortement d'importations dans leurs activités de production). De plus, des relations de travail confrontationnelles qui existent dans certaines industries reliées au commerce extérieur (acier, automobile, etc.)

coûtent cher, non seulement en termes de journées de travail perdues, mais aussi en termes de qualité réduite des produits (motivation réduite des travailleurs). Aussi, le Canada se retrouve constamment au bas de l'échelle des pays de l'OCDE pour ce qui est des montants investis pour la recherche et le développement (R&D), en partie parce que les filiales de multinationales étrangères se trouvant au Canada font peu de recherche elles-mêmes, ces activités étant concentrées dans leur pays d'origine. Comme si ce n'était pas déjà assez, les produits canadiens sont souvent confrontés à d'importantes barrières non-tarifaires à l'étranger (quotas, exigences techniques spéciales, etc.), qui empêchent nos exportateurs de développer de nouveaux marchés, en particulier au Japon et dans les pays du Pacifique-Sud. Ainsi, du point de vue des questions de concurrence internationale, le Canada se trouve désavantagé, que ce soit en comparaison avec ses voisins du Sud ou avec ses rivaux d'Europe ou d'Asie.

Alors que peut-on faire pour sortir le pays de la récession actuelle et pour l'aider à maintenir sa place parmi les grandes économies du globe pour les années à venir? En premier lieu, les différents paliers de gouvernement pourraient abaisser le taux d'imposition du revenu des particuliers et des entreprises, et également compresser les dépenses publiques; les dépenses des ménages, et non des gouvernements, pourraient alors servir de moteur pour donner le coup d'envoi à la reprise. Ensuite, les gouvernements pourraient jouer un rôle plus actif de co-

ordonnateurs entre les secteurs industriels. En effet, vu que les marchés canadien et québécois sont relativement restreints, un plus grand niveau de concertation économique permettrait aux «leaders» de l'industrie de mettre leurs forces en commun (par des fusions, des «joint ventures» ou d'autres projets) pour faire face à la concurrence étrangère. Par ailleurs, les compagnies canadiennes devraient concentrer leurs énergies dans les secteurs de pointe de leurs champs d'activité respectifs, au lieu de réclamer des mesures de protection gouvernementale pour des produits où la concurrence s'est déjà emparée du marché. Enfin, les consommateurs canadiens peuvent eux aussi donner un coup de pouce aux entreprises locales qui se battent pour leur survie. Par exemple, le fait que les sociétés japonaises aient pu compter sur la demande intérieure dans leur propre pays les a grandement aidées à prendre une expansion fulgurante au cours des années 60, 70, 80 et 90.... Ainsi, même dans les cas où, à l'heure actuelle, les produits canadiens sont un peu plus chers et de qualité inférieure aux produits importés correspondants, nous nous devons d'apporter notre soutien aux entrepreneurs d'ici, sinon il y aura moins d'investissement, moins de production et moins de nouveaux emplois pour les Canadiens dans les années à venir.

En somme, tous ont un rôle à jouer pour empêcher l'économie canadienne de tomber victime de la «grande déprime»....et de ne jamais pouvoir s'en relever! ■

Quid Novi is published weekly by students at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, 3644 Peel Street, Montreal, H3A 1W9. Production is made possible by support of the Dean's office and by direct funding from the students. Les opinions exprimées sont propres à l'auteur. Toute contribution n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de

rédaction et doit indiquer l'auteur ou son origine.

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What Happens Before Court ...Cont'd from p.1

left foot shot out and struck at his knee repeatedly until it buckled. He fell down, still swinging, but her left foot kept shooting out at his chest, his face, his head, until he fell over. Unconscious.

What I've just described was not a theatre production. The kicks, the punches, and especially the fear, were real. What I have been describing is my friend's final exam in her «*Agression simulée*» course. You may have found its description upsetting. However, it does not convey just how profoundly upsetting it was. Many people in attendance wept as they witnessed firsthand what the words «sexual assault» really represent.

Why were we all so emotionally perturbed by what we saw? A second friend (who also attended one such «exam» and later took the course) felt that her repeated exposure to the issue of sexual assault, in the movies, in the news, and at school, had actually left her «desensitized» to its reality. Indeed, many of us seem to have succumbed to this desensitization as the oft repeated statistic that 1 in 3 women will be sexually assaulted no longer seems to shock us as much as it should.

This experience also shook her up because she had never before pictured herself as a victim of sexual assault. This is not to say that she did not constantly think about the possibility of being assaulted, at night, in the afternoon on the Mountain, or even standing alone at a bus stop. However, she had never imagined herself actually being assaulted, pinned down by an angry assailant screaming obscenities in her face.

The purpose of the «*Agression simulée*» course is not to frighten anyone. Rather it is to make you confront what may be your most frightening nightmare so that you can deal with it if you are faced with such a situation. Furthermore, you are

not left alone to confront and overcome your fears about rape. The course is very much a communal experience as the other participants, who share the same fears, provide support and encouragement. For this reason, some therapists recommend that women who have been raped take this course so that they may find the courage to put what has happened to them in the past.

The «*Agression simulée*» is not a judo/karate-type course that will only prepare you for an attack in a gymnasium by a man in white pyjamas just like yours. Although the course was developed by a martial arts expert, it was done to address the types of attacks women most encounter on the street or in their homes. Moreover, the techniques that are taught are few and simple, and their mastery doesn't

require hours of arduous daily training. Given that in most sexual assault scenarios women are thrown down, emphasis is placed on defending yourself while on the ground and using your legs. The rationale is that a woman's legs are stronger than a man's arms and therefore you don't need to be unusually strong to benefit from the course.

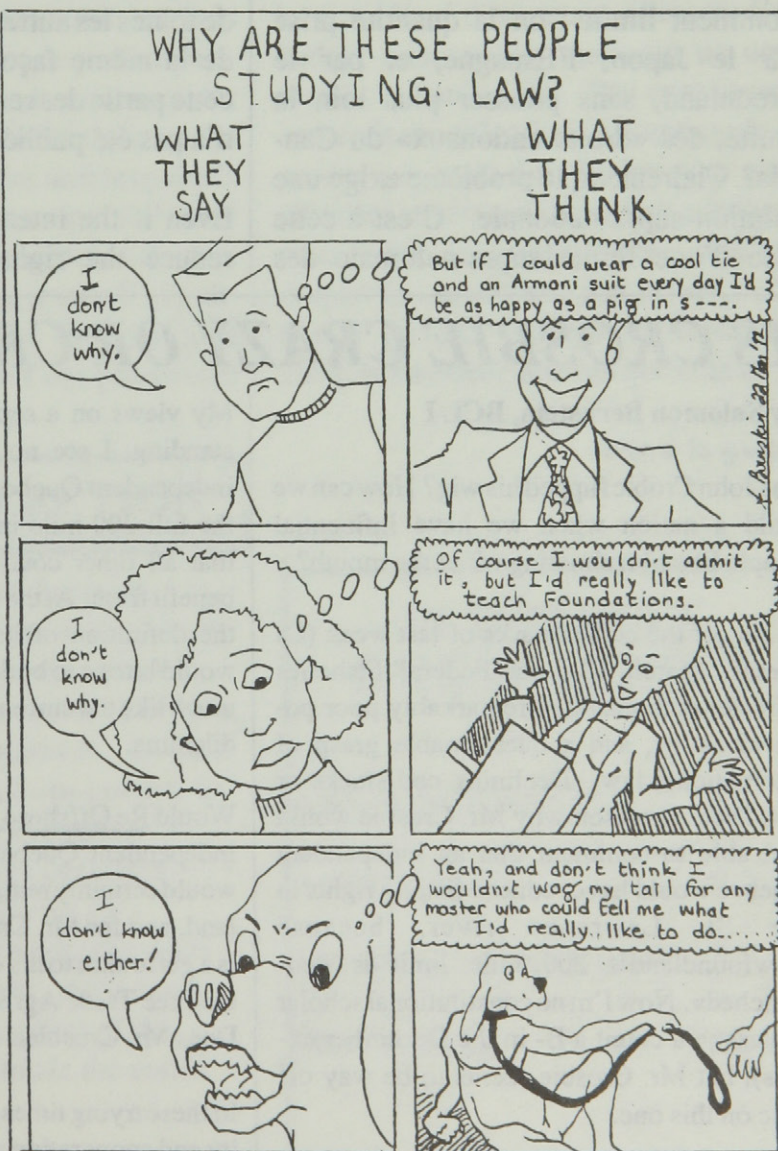
Participants practice against live «agressors» encased in heavy padding, enabling students to strike out as powerfully as they can. This is important as the course is intended not only to teach special techniques, but to instill the instinct to strike back when assaulted, and strike

back violently, in order to get away. It is for this reason that the simulated attacks are as realistic as possible and include verbal assaults of the type described above.

This course is not a passport to walk down dark alleys after midnight. Unfortunately, none of us have that luxury. However, my friends have emerged from this course with a new confidence which stems from the fact that they now know how they will react if ever they are attacked. They also know that they will be able to get away because they will have done so many times before. If you want more information about the course, call the «*Agression simulée*» organizers at (514) 528-1396 or stop either Renée Thériault or myself in the halls at the Faculty.

THE PITS

by Arnold Bornstein



EN FAVEUR DE DROITS RÉDUITS - POUR TOUS

Par Pierre Quintal, BCL I

Les récentes remarques de l'Honorable John Crosbie ont provoqué beaucoup de discussion et de controverses. Pris hors-contexte, ces commentaires semblent de vraies bombes dans le débat national sur la constitution. L'idée de droits internationaux réduits pour un Québec indépendant ne convient pas, quelle surprise, aux membres vocaux du Bloc Québécois.

When placed in the context of the world-wide overfishing problem, however, his words, when discounted for their shock value, make a bit more sense. Fish stocks are being depleted at an ever-increasing rate. As a visiting student, I was shocked to see that the problem is only now being seen as urgent in Canada!

Comment limite-t-on la quantité prise par le Japon, l'Espagne, et par le Groënland, sans pousser plus loin la limite, des «droits nationaux» du Canada? Clairement, le problème exige une solution supra-nationale. C'est à cette idée d'une limite supra-nationale des

droits de pêche, au lieu de déclarations unilatérales d'autorité territoriale nationale, que M. Crosbie référait la semaine passée.

Crosbie appears to be hinting at some master plan to multilaterally reduce fishing rights across the world. Such an approach would provide a new way of thinking about an old problem. It is impossible to reconcile 200 mile fishing limits for every nation with the idea of global cooperation in the overfishing crisis. The focus should be on conserving the ocean's food stocks for future generations not on conserving outdated and jingoistic international law territory rights.

Quand M. Crosbie parle d'une réduction des droits de pêche d'un Québec indépendant, il faut ajouter que, les droits de toutes les autres nations seront réduits de la même façon. Malheureusement, cette partie des remarques de M. Crosbie n'a pas été publiée dans *La Presse*.

Even if the intent of Crosbie is not to reduce the rights of an independent

Québec's neighbouring nations by a corresponding amount, there is something to be said for having most recently-formed nations bear the brunt of the conservation measures. In other words, we all gain from this conservation of food supplies, so it would not be fair to enforce a de facto retroactive clause on nations, and provinces, that have had a stake in this issue for many years.

La plus grande difficulté qui attend ce plan «supra-national» de M. Crosbie sera de le mettre en oeuvre. Des intérêts commerciaux très importants vont certainement s'allier contre le conservationnisme multilatéral, et ces intérêts seront difficiles à contenir. Cependant, M. Crosbie dispose de plusieurs atouts. Les négociations continuent informellement aux Nations-Unies, et il y a toujours le G.A.T.T.

We can only hope that Mr. Crosbie communicates more clearly his plans for the future over the next few weeks. He has the right idea, but time is not on his side. ■

IS CROSBIE CRAZY OR CROOKED?

By Salomon Bernstein, BCL I

Has John Crosbie flipped his wig? How can we build a nation when we have influential people like him shooting off at the mouth?

In his off the cuff remarks of last week (*La Presse*, March 13), our Federal Fisheries minister demonstrated remarkably poor political savvy, and a questionable grasp of international law. Declining cod stocks or not, I see no reason why Mr. Crosbie would feel able to comment that an independent Quebec would have reduced fishing rights in the St. Lawrence river, because Newfoundland's 200 mile limit is «entrenched». Now I'm no constitutional scholar (unless you count a B- in the December exams), but Mr. Crosbie seems to be way off base on this one.

My views on a separate Quebec notwithstanding, I see no reason why a potential independent Quebec would not benefit from the full 200 mile international fishing limit that all other countries, at least in theory, benefit from. At the very least, the question of the definition of its «international waters» would be one to be debated in a proper forum, much like the current St. Pierre and Miquelon dilemma.

Would *Re Offshore Minerals* be binding on a independent Quebec? Probably not, but it would certainly remain in force in Newfoundland, and for Mr. Crosbie to assert otherwise is a gaffe akin to his «I haven't read the text of the Free Trade Agreement» debacle of 1989. Does Mr. Crosbie never learn?

In these trying times, we need all the sensitivity and cooperation we can get from our lead-

ers. Quebec's potential independence may be shocking and hurtful to some, but the best way to keep the province in the fold is to calmly discuss the repercussions of a split, and to confront these issues in a rational and coherent manner. Emotional and unfounded statements like those Mr. Crosbie made last week only serve to exacerbate an already tense political situation.

I have now said my peace, but I think it also falls to us, as law students, to speak up against these type of statements that have no grounding in basic constitutional law. Fortunately, we seem to have the chance right under our noses. The O.F.W.C./S.P.S.V. (McGill) is having Mr. Crosbie as a guest speaker in our own Moot Court next week. I urge you to confront Mr. Crosbie, and all the fanfare that undoubtedly follows a floundering Conservative Minister these days, when his procession arrives. We must arrest this muddled thinking! The future of the country is at stake! ■